Application No. PCT/EP2003/008497 Attorney Docket No. PG4902USW

REMARKS

Claims 1-47 are presented in this application. In this amendment, claims 48-50 have

been cancelled, and claims 1-36, 38-47 have been amended. Claim 1 was amended to

place it in outline fashion. Claims 2-36, 38-47 have been amended to express the

preamble in a fashion more suitable to US patent practice. Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 11, 14,

16, 18, 20, 22, 23, 25, 26, 29, 33, 35, 36, 39, 42, 43, 45, and 47 have been amended to

remove multiple dependencies for the purpose of reducing fees. No amendments

have been made to distinguish the claimed invention over any prior art.

Applicants have amended the specification for purposes of adding the priority

information. Further, appropriate headings have been inserted on accordance to 37

CFR 1.77. Applicants have attached a substitute Abstract on a separate sheet of paper

as required by US practice.

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance.

An early consideration and Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future

replies, to charge any fees or credit any overpayment, particularly including any fees

required under 37 CFR Sect 1.16 or 1.17, and any necessary extension of time fees, to

deposit Account No. 07-1392.

Respectfully submitted:

Dated: 13 December 2004

James P. RIEK

(Attorney of Record

Reg. No. 39,009

Tel. (919) 483-8022

Fax: (919) 483-7988

12